

THE HITHERTO UNKNOWN MALE OF *CHAETOPLEUROPHORA SPINOSA* (DIPTERA: PHORIDAE)

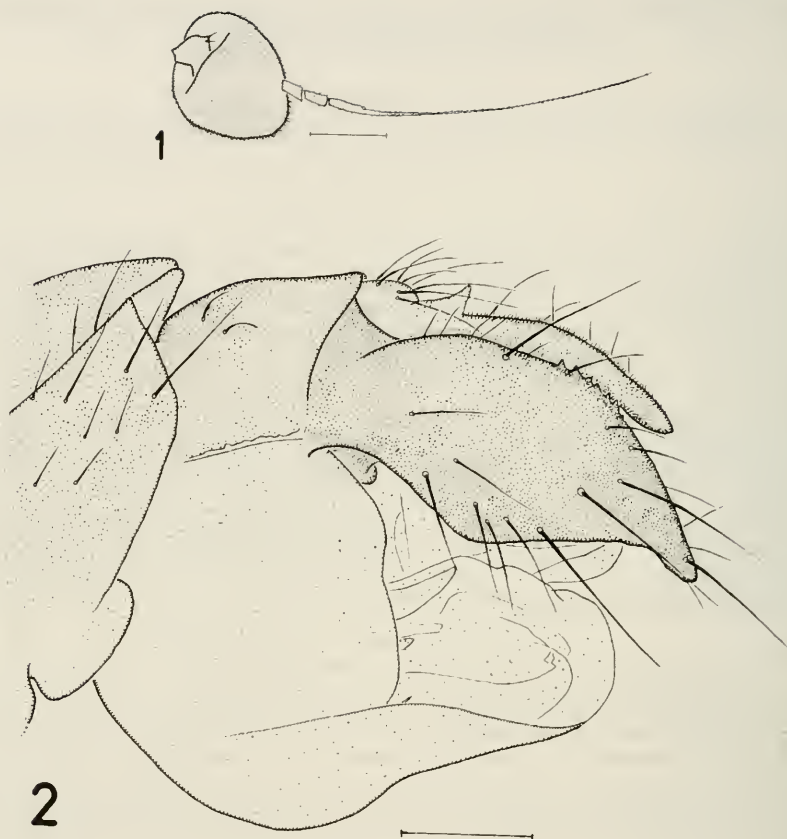
R. H. L. DISNEY

Field Studies Council Research Fellow, University Museum of Zoology, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EJ

Schmitz (1941) provided a key to the six known species of Palaearctic *Chaetopleurophora* Schmitz, along with detailed descriptions. However, *C. spinosa* Schmitz has remained known from the holotype female only, which was collected in the Netherlands. On a visit to the Museum Koenig (Bonn) in 1996 I found a specimen of a male standing under "*Chaetopleurophora* sp.". It was labelled "Kemberg b. Trallenbach [or possibly "Trallmbach"] 5/6. 44. 20/54". Kemberg is in Germany, due south of Wittenberg. The specimen proved to be undescribed and in Schmitz's key it runs to the *C. spinosa*, *C. spinosior* Schmitz, *C. spinosissima* (Strobl) group of species. However, it will not run out to any of these as it combines possession of two pre-apical bristles on the front tibia with five pre-apical bristles on the middle tibia and only a single pre-apical anterior bristle on the hind tibia. The female holotype of *C. spinosa* differs in having only one pre-apical bristle on the front tibia. Otherwise the relatively small size and the rest of Schmitz's (1941) description of this female leave little doubt that the male specimen from Kemberg is the hitherto undescribed male of *C. spinosa*. It is characterized below.

CHAETOPLEUROPHORA SPINOSA SCHMITZ

Male. Frons brown and clearly broader than long (high). The robust supra-antennal bristles about three-quarters length of antials, which are further from them than from anterolaterals. The latter and antials in an almost straight transverse row, but antials about twice as far apart as either is from an anterolateral. Mediolaterals very slightly lower on frons than pre-ocellars, but the four bristles almost equally spaced. With 38 hairs, and with microtrichia largely restricted to vicinity of vertex. Brown antenna as Fig. 1. Palps pale dusky orange yellow with a longer apical bristle, four shorter pre-apicals and 6–7 short stout spine-like bristles further back. Proboscis with small brown labrum and mainly brown labella, which are well developed but somewhat shortened distally. Thorax brown, but paler on much of pleural regions. Mesopleuron with 10–12 hairs and a strong bristle near hind margin. Each side of scutum with a humeral, two notopleurals (the front one long and robust, the hind one short and weak), two pre-alar (the front one being stronger), an intra-alar, a post-alar, and a shorter pre-scutellar dorsocentral bristle. Scutellum with four bristles, the anterior pair being at most as long and strong as dorsocentrals, the posterior pair being longer and more robust. Legs brown, but trochanters more pale brownish yellow. All five fore-tarsal segments with a posterodorsal hair palisade. Front tibia with an anterodorsal bristle at end of first third and also at end of second third. Middle tibia with a dorsal bristle at beginning of second quarter and at beginning of apical third; with an anterodorsal bristle at end of first quarter and in middle of second quarter; with an anterior bristle just before middle of apical third; and a short anteroventral in second half of last quarter. Hairs below basal half of hind femur shorter and less robust than those of anteroventral row of outer half. One hind tibia with eight and one with seven pre-apical bristles. First third with an anterodorsal followed by a dorsal; second third likewise, but on one leg there is a



Figs. 1–2. *Chaetopleurophora spinosa* male. 1: left antenna. 2: left face of hypopygium. Scale bars = 0.1 mm.

dorsal before the anterodorsal as well as below it; last third with two dorsals and a strong pre-apical anterior bristle. Spines of apical combs of posterior face all simple. Wings 1.98 mm long. Costal index 0.452. Costal ratios 3.74: 2.16: 1. Costal cilia 0.10 mm long. Hair at base of vein 3 about as long but not so robust. A single longer bristle on axillary ridge. Vein Sc runs to R_1 , but pale and cell Sc very narrow. Veins yellowish brown. Membrane distinctly grey tinged. Haltere yellow with much of knob more whitish yellow. Abdomen with brown tergites with short hairs which are only a little longer at rear of tergite 6. Venter brown with a few hairs below. Hypopygium brown and as Fig. 2.

The difference in the chaetotaxy of the two hind tibiae serves to caution against placing too much weight on the presence or absence of individual bristles. Whether the difference between the number of bristles on the front tibiae of the male above and those of the female holotype of *C. spinosa* is a case of sexual dimorphism, or of

variation within both sexes of the species, can only be determined by examination of further material.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Dr Hans Ulrich (Museum Koenig, Bonn) for allowing me to remount the specimen on a slide. My work on Phoridae is supported by funding from the Isaac Newton Trust (Trinity College, Cambridge).

REFERENCE

Schmitz, H. 1941. Phoridae. In: Lindner, E. (Ed.). *Die Fliegen der palaearktischen Region* **4(33)** (Lieferung 141): 65–128.

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Platypalpus bilobatus Wéber (Diptera: Hybotidae), and *Chelifera astigma* Collin (Diptera: Empididae) in northern England—*Platypalpus bilobatus* was reported as new to Britain by D. A. Smith (*Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* 1990; **126**: 59) on the basis of a single male taken at Grays Chalk Quarry, Essex 31.vi.1981, and several specimens at the same site in the following year. An appeal by me for further records in *Empid and Dolichopodid Study Group Newsheet* No. 14 (February 1996) produced no response and I here report what therefore appears to be the second British locality for this species.

Four males and two females were collected in Forge Valley Woods National Nature Reserve near Scarborough, North Yorkshire between 15 and 30.vi.1995 where they occurred in an area of calcareous flushes on a wooded hillside. Initially I could not name the specimens and I am obliged to Dr Milan Chvála for suggesting that they may be of this species and to Jonathan Cole for subsequently confirming the identification.

There was no difficulty in naming several male specimens of *Chelifera astigma* collected in the same locality on 28 and 30.vi.1995 and single examples of what are possibly females of this species on the latter date and 12.viii.1995. Originally described by J. E. Collin in 1927 on the basis of a single male collected by Dr J. H. Wood at Churchyard Dingle, Herefordshire 4.vii.1907 (*Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* **43**: 94), the capture of a single male at Cwm Sere, Brecon 28.v.89 was reported by Dr Adrian R. Plant in *Empid and Dolichopodid Study Group Newsheet* No. 8 (February 1990). In his note, Dr Plant included an illustration of the male genitalia which is not figured in Collin (*British Flies* 6: Empididae).

There is an undated record of this species from Sabden in *The Diptera of Lancashire and Cheshire Part 1* by L. N. Kidd and A. Brindle, published by the Lancashire and Cheshire Fauna Committee in 1959, and an unpublished old record from Beattock, Dumfriesshire which needs tracing and confirming—ROY CROSSLEY, 1 The Cloisters, Wilberfoss, York YO4 5RF.